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17. [cancelled]
18. [cancelled]
19. [cancelled]
20. [currently amended] An apparatus for assembling first and second mold parts having contact lens forming surfaces, wherein said first mold part has a reaction mixture on said contact lens forming surface, said apparatus comprising movement preventing means which prevents said first mold part from being lifted towards said second mold part while said contact lens forming surface of said second mold part is controllably moved into said reaction mixture at least until a majority of said contact lens forming

surface of said second mold part has been wetted by said reaction mixture on said first mold part, and The apparatus of claim 1 wherein a rate of controllably moving said contact lens forming surface of said second mold part into said reaction mixture is increased after a majority of said contact lens forming surface of said second mold part has been wetted by said reaction mixture.

21. [previously amended] The apparatus of claim 20, wherein said movement preventing means is deactivated when said rate of controllably moving said contact lens forming surface of said second mold part into said reaction mixture is increased.

22. [previously added] The method of claim 11, A method for assembling first and second mold parts having contact lens forming surfaces, wherein said first mold part has a reaction mixture on said contact lens forming surface, said method comprising the step of: preventing said first mold part from being lifted towards said second mold part while controllably moving said contact lens forming surface of said second mold part into said reaction mixture, at least until a majority of said contact lens forming surface of said second mold part has been wetted by said reaction mixture on said first mold part wherein a rate of controllably moving said contact lens forming surface of said second mold part into said reaction mixture is increased after a majority of said contact lens forming surface of said second mold part has been wetted by said reaction mixture.

23. [previously added] The method of claim 22, where the step of preventing said first mold part from being lifted is removed when said rate of controllably moving said contact lens forming surface of said second mold part into said reaction mixture is increased.

24. [previously added] An apparatus for assembling first and second mold parts having contact lens forming surfaces, wherein said first mold part has a reaction mixture on said contact lens forming surface, said apparatus comprising movement preventing means which prevents said first mold part from moving, said movement preventing means being activated during one portion of travel of said contact lens forming surface of said second mold part into said reaction mixture and being deactivated during another portion of travel of said contact lens forming surface of said second mold part into said reaction mixture.

25. [previously added] The apparatus of claim 24, wherein said contact lens forming surface of said second mold part is moved into said reaction mixture at a speed of less than about 0.35 mm/sec.

26. [previously added] A method for assembling first and second mold parts having contact lens forming surfaces, wherein said first mold part has a reaction mixture on said contact lens forming surface, said method comprising the step of : controllably moving said contact lens forming surface of said second mold part into said reaction mixture at a first rate until a majority of said contact lens forming surface of said second mold part has been wetted by said reaction mixture, and thereafter moving said contact lens forming

surface of said second mold part further into said reaction mixture at a second rate that is greater than said first rate.

27. [previously added] The method of claim 26, further comprising the step of preventing the first mold part from lifting toward said second mold during said first rate.

28. [previously added] The method of claim 26, wherein said first rate is less than about 0.35 mm/sec.